



U.S. Department of Justice

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TWO ROCKFORD MEN CONVICTED OF ARMED ROBBERIES OF ALPINE BANK AND ASSOCIATED BANK IN ROCKFORD

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and CHET EPPERSON, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

Last Friday, October 26, 2007, a federal jury returned guilty verdicts against two men, **CORVET T. WILLIAMS**, 24 of Rockford, and **BRIAN D. AUSTIN**, 25, also of Rockford, convicting them of the August 23, 2006 armed bank robbery of the Alpine Bank inside the Logli's supermarket, located at 2642 Charles Street, as well as the September 5, 2006 armed bank robbery of the Associated Bank located at 3402 N. Main Street in Rockford. Both men were also convicted of two counts each of using firearms during and in relation to both bank robberies.

Evidence presented at trial established that on August 23, 2006, Austin and Williams entered the Alpine Bank inside the Logli's supermarket on Charles Street at approximately 12:40 p.m. They wore masks and black gloves and were both armed with firearms. Austin jumped the teller counter and emptied the teller drawers while Williams held customers and bank employees at gunpoint. Thirteen days later, on September 5, 2006, Austin and Williams robbed the Associated Bank at 3402 N. Main Street in nearly identical fashion. At approximately 10:40 a.m. that day, they entered the bank wearing masks and black gloves, and they were again both armed with firearms. Austin again jumped the teller counter and emptied the teller drawers while Williams held customers and bank employees at gunpoint. Austin and Williams remain in federal custody.

The charges of armed bank robbery each carry a maximum possible penalty of 25 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, five years of supervised release, and full restitution. In addition, each man faces a mandatory consecutive sentence of at least 7 years for the first conviction of using a firearm during a crime of violence, and an additional mandatory consecutive sentence of 25 years for the second conviction of using a firearm during a crime of violence, meaning each man faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 32 years of imprisonment for their convictions on the gun charges, which must be ordered to run consecutively to any sentence imposed for the armed bank robbery convictions. The actual sentence will be determined by United States District Court Judge Philip G. Reinhard, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing has been scheduled for both men for February 21, 2008, Austin at 10:00 a.m. and Williams at 11:00 a.m.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the FBI and the Rockford Police Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael F. Iasparro and Joseph C. Pedersen.